

"Tree Friendly" Awards

Community award program is targeted to neighborhoods and associations



The Urban and Community Forestry Program wants to recognize neighborhood associations and community groups with active forestry programs with a Delaware "Tree Friendly Community Award." Though a larger municipality can qualify as a Tree City USA, there are many

local groups who improve their community's quality of life through the planting and care of trees.

A Tree-Friendly Community must have accomplished (3) of the following items:

- Performed an annual ceremony such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, or another community ceremony that educates the public and promotes trees.
- Conducted a tree project within your community that enhances existing urban forest resources. This can include planting trees in a community-owned open space, trimming of city-owned street trees, or a similar project.
- Developed a community forestry management plan in cooperation with the U&CF Program. Plans should guide the management of urban forestry resources for at least a five year period.
- Developed a community tree ordinance that protects trees.
- Formulated a tree commission or tree board that guides tree-related decisions.
- Had a tree budget of \$1 per household.

Communities receive a complimentary sign to show their dedication to maintaining their forest resources.

Application forms are available at <http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry> and are due by March 17, 2009. For more details, call Kyle Hoyd at (302) 943-7869.



**Replacing a tree or shrub after a drought ?
Are you adding a new planting to your yard?
Read this helpful "how-to" guide.**

Tips on Transplants

by Maggie L. Moor-Orth, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University

Autumn is a good time to transplant deciduous trees and shrubs. However, many people purchase and transplant deciduous trees and shrubs in the spring. If you are planning to plant an evergreen tree and/or shrub, spring is the better time.

Selection of the tree or shrub that you want to transplant isn't as important as its age, size, and overall condition (number of healthy or dead branches). For example, younger and smaller plants can be transplanted with less risk than older and larger ones. In addition, healthier plants are more likely to survive transplant-shock than are unhealthy ones.

The exception in transplanting unhealthy plants would be to relocate a plant to a more suitable growing site in your landscape. This would apply to plants that have managed to survive at their existing site but lack vigor.

In most cases, a change of location to one that meets the needs of the plant (direct sun, south or east exposure, etc.) can often restore its vigor. To determine if a tree or shrub is healthy and vigorous, look for the length of annual twig growth, condition of buds and flowers, number of dead branches, and the size and color of the leaves. Some signs of poor health include wilting, stunted growth, malformation, and disease spots.

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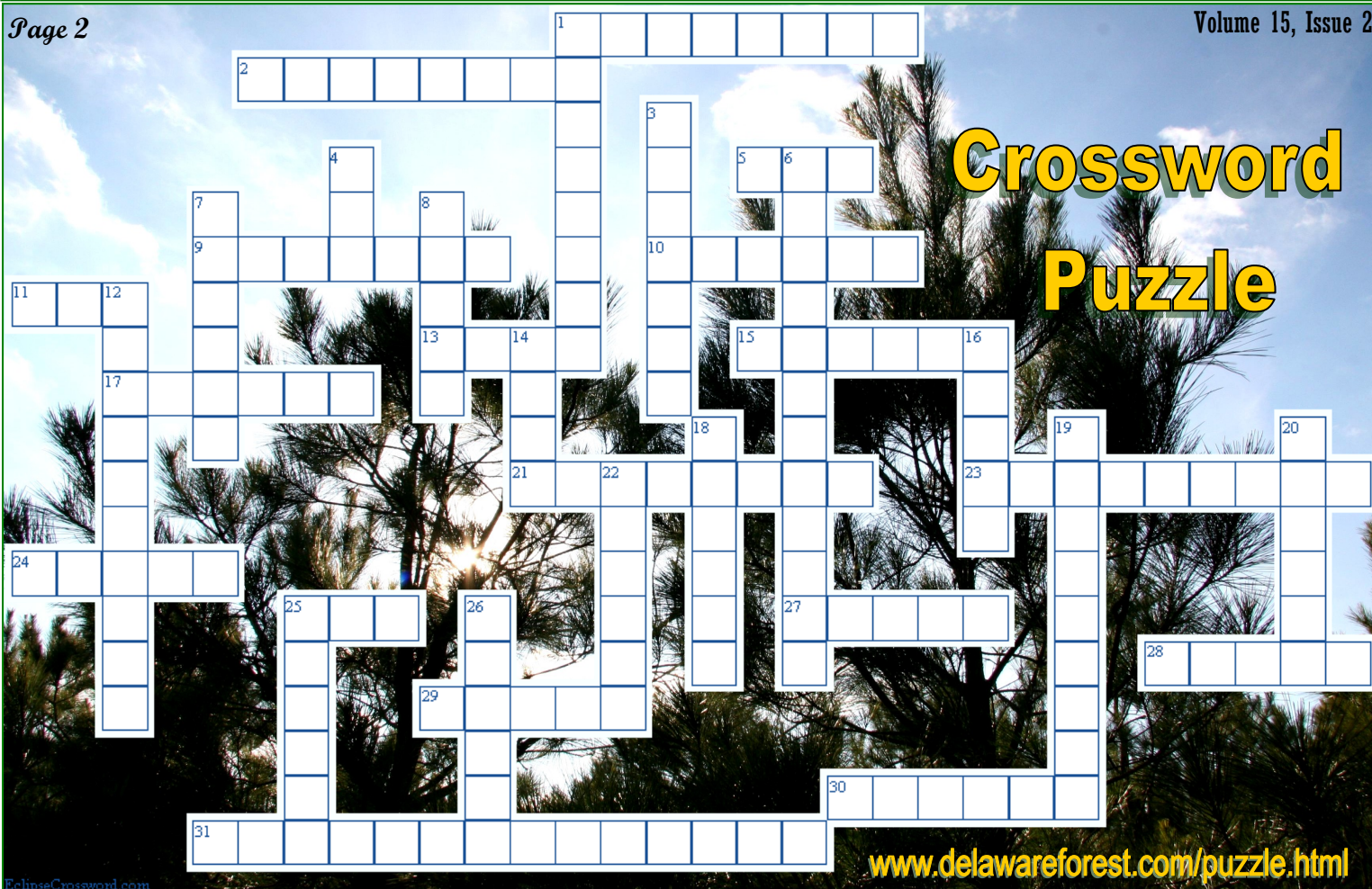
**WHAT
TREE
IS IT?**

CLUES:

- An evergreen also known as "juniper"
- Found abundantly in Delaware; produces a very durable wood used for fence posts and window sills.
- Interior wood is used to line closets and "hope" chests to deter insects.
- Planting near apple orchards should be avoided due to risk of a type of leaf rust.
- Leaves are either awl-shaped or scale-like.
- Birds eat the seeds and carry them to other locations.
- Originally Delaware's Christmas tree, often adorned with live candles on Christmas Eve... causing many house fires on Dec. 24!

So, what tree is it?
answer on page 4

Crossword Puzzle



www.delawareforest.com/puzzle.html

answer key on page 4

Across

1. Nationally-observed day to celebrate trees
2. A professional in managing woodlands, or a car made by Subaru
5. An emerald-colored insect likes this tree
9. “_dickory, dock. A tree went up the clock”
10. A “popular” tree rarely attacked by insects
11. An undeveloped embryonic shoot on a leaf or a stem, or a term for a good friend
13. A bird's home
15. This tree may look like it's “weeping”
17. This waxy part is where an evergreen branch “sews” up moisture
21. An important commercial tree in Delaware; means “low wet place”
23. A tree that hardly “ever” loses its leaves
24. This plant tissue is seen when you “x”-pose the tree rings
25. Not a good idea to be “chewing” this tree
27. “Down-to-earth” parts help anchor the tree
28. You might find fruit, but you won't find an iPod on this tree
29. You probably won't find this tree at the “sandy seashore”
30. This is where the tree “rakes” in sunlight for photosynthesis
31. The “picture-perfect” way for a tree to capture sunlight for food

Down

1. One who specializes in the care of individual trees
3. Not a “dessert dressing,” but a bad thing you can do to a tree
4. This mighty tree comes from a tiny acorn
6. The art and science of managing forests
7. Always alive, this is where the tree's sugar “flows”
8. Tree rings are “locked inside” this main tree structure
12. The study of woody plants
14. Another word for dirt
16. Without this substance, there is a drought.
18. One who harvests timber for commercial production
19. A tree that “decides” to drop its leaves
20. An insect that can attack white pine trees
22. A bough or a twig is a type of this
25. The oldest tree species - originally from China
26. Tree associated with George Washington

PLAY THE INTERACTIVE
CROSSWORD PUZZLE AT:
[www.delawareforest.com/
puzzle.html](http://www.delawareforest.com/puzzle.html)

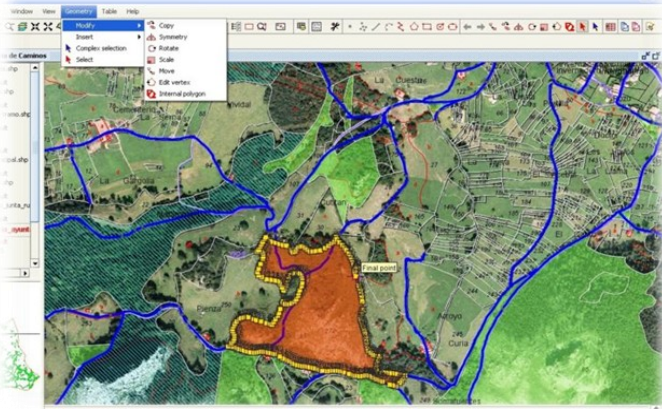
(“Tips” - continued from page 1)

Another factor to consider is plant hardiness. Plants are considered hardy when they can withstand extremes of environmental conditions such as very low winter temperatures and intense summer heat or drought.

Usually moving your tree or shrub from one site to another in your landscape will not affect its hardiness unless there are drastic changes in wind or sun exposure. To protect young trees transplanted from a shady location to an open sunny location, wrap the trunks with strips of burlap.

To protect trees and shrubs from wind damage, install a rope or guy wires to hold them in place until the root system regenerates. The number of wires needed depends on plant size. In addition, guide wires should be placed high enough on the plant so that leverage of the top does not loosen them. A crotch is an ideal place to anchor the rope or wire. Check your guy wires so they're not too tight or rubbing the bark - causing damage. These guidelines should help transplant deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs successfully.

GIS: Mapping The Future of Urban Forestry



Using sophisticated GIS software (geographical information system) and data from aerial surveillance of Delaware's topography, Senior Urban and Community Forester Henry Poole is part of a team using a federal grant to construct a detailed map layer of the state's forest cover in towns and cities.

Thanks to a USDA Forest Service competitive grant, urban forestry in Delaware will get a big boost when the state's GIS layer is completed in 2009. Geographic information system (GIS) software allows foresters to analyze the existing forest layer and target areas to expand it.



March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Community Forestry Calendar of Events

Listed workshops will be held at the **Delaware Center for Horticulture**, 1810 North Dupont Street, Wilmington, DE 19806 phone: (302) 658-6262
Contact Patrice Sheehan, Tree Program Manager or visit www.dehort.org

Plant Your Own Bare Root Tree

Order a bare root tree from the Delaware Center for Horticulture by Feb 18th. Order forms are available at the DCH web site:

http://www.dehort.org/events_education/bareroot.php

Bare root trees are less expensive than container trees, are 6-10' tall, and ideal for groups of volunteers to plant. Pick-up date for trees is Thurs. March 19 from 5-8 pm and Friday, March 20 from 12 noon -2pm.

Urban Forestry Grant Workshop – Part I & Bare Root Planting Training

Thursday, March 19, 6-8 p.m.
Cost - **FREE**

Learn to correctly plant a bare root tree. Class coincides with first bare-root pick up date and Urban Forestry Grant Workshop I.

Concerned about the trees in your neighborhood? Find out how to coordinate your own neighborhood tree project! Learn how to design a project, generate support from neighbors and local legislators, and apply for grant money to pay for it.

The Urban & Community Forestry Council offers funding through annual cost-share grants to communities, civic associations, and neighborhood groups. Grants up to \$5,000 are available for tree management or plantings. Selected applicants will be required to raise matching funds either through in-kind volunteer hours or other funding sources. Grant applications will be available in April. Refreshments provided.

Spring Volunteer Planting Day

Saturday, March 21

Wilmington residents, volunteers, and interested community organizations will join forces to plant bare root trees at Riverview Cemetery. Contact Annie Acton at aacton@dehort.org or (302)658-6262, ext. 106 for more details or to sign up.

Urban Forestry Workshop Part II

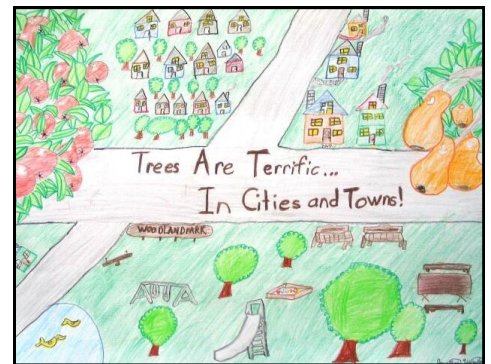
Thursday, April 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Cost - **FREE**

Fine-tune the details of your tree project grant application with help from DCH staff and a representative from the Delaware Forest Service. This workshop is a follow up to the March 19 training. Refreshments provided.

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

“Trees Are Terrific... in Cities and Towns”



Jonathan Winston won the 2004 award.

Calling all student artists! March 1, 2009 is the deadline for Delaware students in grades K-5 to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by the Delaware Forest Service. The 5th-grade winner will represent the First State in the 2009 national contest in Nebraska. Entry packets are available now at www.delawareforest.com.

Send entries to:

Ashley Ward
Delaware Forest Service
2320 S. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901

How To Manage Sustainable Landscapes

“Sustainability” is certainly the buzzword du jour, but what does it mean with regard to installing and managing landscapes? A subcommittee of the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens (UDBG) decided to research the issue of sustainable landscapes.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative, Standards and Guidelines, Preliminary Report published in November, 2007 (<http://www.sustainablesites.org/>) provided a great start. This report has both a general and a national focus, so the UDBG subcommittee adapted some of its information to create a short document relevant to Delaware.

Let’s begin with a definition: a sustainable landscape is a stable and productive ecosystem that conserves the physical and biological processes occurring on that landscape. The dictionary definition of *sustainability* includes the concept of “continuing in a specific state.” Indeed, landscapes are constantly changing. In fact, one of the greatest pleasures of a garden is that due to daily, seasonal and yearly changes, no two moments in a garden are ever exactly the same. However, a sustainable landscape uses natural processes to remain viable during this process of continual change. Designed and managed properly, sustainable landscapes maintain hydrological function, plant and animal diversity, biomass, and soil integrity - and contribute to human wellness.

Designers of sustainable landscapes attempt to minimize site disturbances and work with existing site elements to the extent possible. So what specific recommendations can be made to create and manage sustainable landscapes? In

by Susan K. Barton, Extension Specialist , University of Delaware



this and future issues of *Evergreen*, we will cover five major aspects of sustainability—soils, water, plants, materials, and human wellness. In this issue, the focus will be on managing soil and water sustainably.

Soil is actually a complex ecosystem comprised of minerals, air, water and organic matter (living and decaying organisms). The first step in assessing soil health is to take a soil test to determine the existing nutrient levels on site. Add nutrients based on soil test recommendations. To improve soil structure and reduce runoff, use locally-generated compost. Limit soil compaction on site, and use pesticides only when their potential benefits outweigh the environmental risk.

Sustainable landscapes maximize water infiltration and maintain the integrity of the watershed. Start by selecting plants to fit existing soil moisture conditions, rather than trying to modify existing conditions. Provide irrigation only when required for plant establishment or management during extended drought. When irrigation is

necessary, use captured and treated rainwater, grey-water, and wastewater. Reduce or limit impervious surfaces to improve water infiltration. Reduce stormwater discharge by installing gardens to slow water movement and encourage infiltration (rain gardens, green roofs) rather than relying on stormwater collection and removal from the site.

It’s a good idea to develop and maintain plant cover to prevent sediment runoff, and on new sites, follow appropriate sediment control construction practices.

Answer to “What Tree Is It?”

Juniperus virginiana, or Eastern redcedar, can grow from 30 feet to 100 feet tall.



Its resistance to rot is why the wood is often used in fence posts. Because the aromatic wood is avoided by moths, it is commonly used for lining clothes chests or closets, often called ‘cedar closets’ and ‘cedar chests.’

In some areas of the country, it is still a popular Christmas tree.

Both drought tolerant and cold tolerant, it grows well in rocky, sandy, and clay substrate. Competition between trees is minimal; therefore it can be planted in tightly spaced rows and still allow the trees to grow to full height, creating a solid windbreak in a short period of time.

CROSSWORD
ANSWER KEY

1 A R B O R D A Y

2 F O R E S T E R

3 T O

4 B O

5 A S S H

6 P O P L A R

7 H I C K O R Y

8 T

9 L O

10 U

11 S

12 N E S T

13 E

14 I

15 W I L L O

16 W

17 A T

18 C U

19 D

20 W

21 L O B L O L L Y

22 R

23 N G

24 G U M

25 H

26 C

27 B E E C H

28 A P P L E

29 R

30 L E A V E S

31 P H O T O S Y N T H E S I S

32 Y

33 X Y L E M

34 O

35 G

36 Y

37 D

38 M

39 E

40 E

41 D

42 L

43 E

44 K

45 I

46 N

47 K

48 R

49 G

50 Y

51 P

52 H

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